REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application.

Claims 27-30 are cancelled.

Claims 7-12, 14, 19, 21-24 and 26 are objected to.

Claims 1-6, 13, 15-18, 20 and 25 are rejected.

The office action dated August 18, 2005 indicates that claims 7-12, 14, 19, 21-24 and 26 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to for depending from rejected base claims. Claims 7, 14, 19 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, amended claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-12, amended claims 14 and 19, and amended claim 21 and its dependent claims 22-23 should be allowed over the documents made of record.

The office action also indicates that claims 1-6, 13, 15-18, 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Iwata U.S. Patent No. 6,795,334. These rejections have been rendered moot by the amendments above to claim 1 and 15.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite series-connected memory elements that all lie in the same plane. In contrast, Iwata shows series-connected memory elements lying in different planes (Iwata's series-connected memory elements are stacked in the z-direction) Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 and 13 should be allowed over Iwata.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite series-connected memory elements that are at different cross-points. Iwata's series-connected memory elements are located at the same cross point. Therefore, amended claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-18, 20, and 24-26 should be allowed over Iwata.

The examiner is respectfully requested to allow the documents made of record. If any issues remain, the examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's attorney Hugh Gortler.

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